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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to child welfare; amending s. 39.013,
3 F.S.; allowing an individual's presence or attendance
4 to be through audio-video technology; creating s.
5 39.0143, F.S.; requiring the Department of Children
6 and Families and Department of Juvenile Justice to
7 identify and meet the needs of dually-involved
8 children and youth; requiring a quarterly report to
9 the Legislature; amending s. 39.205, F.S.; removing a
10 report; amending s. 39.4022, F.S.; requiring a
11 representative from the Department of Juvenile Justice
12 to be invited to a multidisciplinary team staffing
13 under certain circumstances; amending s. 39.5085,
14 F.S.; limiting who may participate in the Relative
15 Caregiver Program; amending s. 383.011, F.S.;
16 requiring home visiting programs to include father
17 engagement activities; amending s. 409.145, F.S.;
18 requiring caregivers to receive a child care subsidy
19 under certain circumstances; amending s. 409.1451,
20 F.S.; increasing the monthly stipend for postsecondary
21 education services and supports; requiring the
22 Department of Children and Families or an agency under
23 contract with the department to conduct an assessment;
24 requiring the Department of Children and Families or
25 an agency under contract with the department to work

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with young adults to create a financial plan;
 requiring the Department of Children and Families or
 an agency under contract with the department to assist
 the young adult in the creation of a transition plan
 before the young adult exits postsecondary services
 and supports; amending s. 409.1452, F.S.; requiring
 liaisons and campus coaches for children and young
 adults who have been or are in foster care or are
 homeless at each institution that may use a tuition
 and fee waiver; requiring postsecondary institutions
 to maintain documentation; creating s.409.1464, F.S.;
 requiring the Department of Children and Families to
 do a media campaign on fatherhood; creating 409.1465,
 F.S.; requiring the Department of Children and
 Families to award grants to not-for-profit community
 based organizations to address the needs of fathers;
 creating s. 409.1467, F.S.; requiring the Department
 of Children and Families to contract with Volunteer
 Florida to provide grants to not-for-profit
 organizations to offer mentorship programs; requiring
 grant recipients to submit reports to Volunteer
 Florida; requiring grantees to complete certain
 training; requiring Volunteer Florida to provide
 technical assistance; amending s. 409.147, F.S.;
 requiring children's initiatives to annually update

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51 | strategic plans to include certain information;
52 | requiring the Ounce of Prevention to provide technical
53 | assistance; setting requirements for children's
54 | initiatives to receive state funding; amending s.
55 | 409.2557, F.S.; requiring the Department of Revenue to
56 | establish a webpage that contains certain information;
57 | amending s. 409.2564, F.S.; requiring Department of
58 | Revenue to provide written notification to delinquent
59 | obligors; requiring the written notification to
60 | include certain information; creating s. 409.25996,
61 | F.S.; requiring the Department of Economic Opportunity
62 | to award grants to organizations that assist non-
63 | custodial parents meet child support payments;
64 | amending s. 409.988, F.S.; requiring lead agencies to
65 | conduct an assess engagement with fathers and
66 | provision of father-oriented services; requiring lead
67 | agencies to create action plans; requiring lead agency
68 | to employ father engagement specialist; requiring the
69 | Department of Children and Families to annually review
70 | how lead agencies are meeting the needs of fathers;
71 | requiring lead agencies to provide the Department of
72 | Children and Families with information to be included
73 | in a report; amending s. 409.996, F.S.; revising the
74 | due date for a report; amending s. 409.997, F.S.;
75 | revising the due date for a report; creating s.

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683.334, F.S.; designating the month of June as
"Responsible Fatherhood Month"; amending s. 1009.25,
F.S.; revising fee waiver eligibility for students who
are or were placed in the in the custody of a relative
or nonrelative to include certain students; creating a
tuition and fee exemption for students who enter
custody of the department after a specified age and
who are reunited with their parent or parents before
reaching a specified age and after spending at least
18 months in out-of-home care; requiring the student
to meet certain federal financial aid eligibility
requirements; requiring the entity imposing tuition
and fees to verify such eligibility; creating a
tuition and fee waiver for students who were the
subject of a dependency hearing, were placed in a
permanent guardianship, and remain in such
guardianship until the student reaches 18 years of age
or, if before reaching 18 years of age, he or she
enrolls in an eligible intuition; providing an
effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsection (13) is added to section 39.013,
Florida Statutes, to read:

39.013 Procedures and jurisdiction; right to counsel.—

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101 (13) An individual's presence or attendance at a hearing
102 or conference may be through that individual's physical
103 appearance or, at the discretion of the court, through audio-
104 video communication technology. If audio-video communication
105 technology will be used to conduct the hearing or conference,
106 the court must provide written notification in advance to each
107 party that includes all relevant information and instructions on
108 how to attend the hearing or conference.

109 Section 2. Section 39.0143, Florida Statutes, is created
110 to read:

111 39.0143 Dually Involved youth.—Beginning in fiscal year
112 2022-2023 through fiscal year 2023-2024, the department and the
113 Department of Juvenile Justice shall identify children that are
114 dually involved with both systems of care. The department and
115 the Department of Juvenile Justice shall collaboratively take
116 appropriate action within available resources to meet the needs
117 of dually involved children more effectively, and shall jointly
118 submit to the Legislature a quarterly report that includes, at a
119 minimum, data on how many children are dually involved with both
120 systems of care, how both agencies track children who become
121 dually involved, and actions taken by both agencies to better
122 serve dually involved children.

123 Section 3. Subsection (7) of section 39.205, Florida
124 Statutes, is amended to read:

125 39.205 Penalties relating to reporting of child abuse,

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abandonment, or neglect.—

(7) The department shall establish procedures for determining whether a false report of child abuse, abandonment, or neglect has been made and for submitting all identifying information relating to such a report to the appropriate law enforcement agency ~~and shall report annually to the Legislature the number of reports referred.~~

Section 4. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section 39.4022, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

39.4022 Multidisciplinary teams; staffings; assessments; report.—

(4) PARTICIPANTS.—

(a) Collaboration among diverse individuals who are part of the child's network is necessary to make the most informed decisions possible for the child. A diverse team is preferable to ensure that the necessary combination of technical skills, cultural knowledge, community resources, and personal relationships is developed and maintained for the child and family. The participants necessary to achieve an appropriately diverse team for a child may vary by child and may include extended family, friends, neighbors, coaches, clergy, coworkers, or others the family identifies as potential sources of support.

1. Each multidisciplinary team staffing must invite the following members:

a. The child, unless he or she is not of an age or

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151 capacity to participate in the team;

152 b. The child's family members and other individuals
153 identified by the family as being important to the child,
154 provided that a parent who has a no contact order or injunction,
155 is alleged to have sexually abused the child, or is subject to a
156 termination of parental rights may not participate;

157 c. The current caregiver, provided the caregiver is not a
158 parent who meets the criteria of one of the exceptions under
159 sub-subparagraph b.;

160 d. A representative from the department other than the
161 Children's Legal Services attorney, when the department is
162 directly involved in the goal identified by the staffing;

163 e. A representative from the community-based care lead
164 agency, when the lead agency is directly involved in the goal
165 identified by the staffing; and

166 f. The case manager for the child, or his or her case
167 manager supervisor.

168 g. A representative from the Department of Juvenile
169 Justice if the child is dually involved with both the department
170 and the Department of Juvenile Justice.

171 2. The multidisciplinary team must make reasonable efforts
172 to have all mandatory invitees attend. However, the
173 multidisciplinary team staffing may not be delayed if the
174 invitees in subparagraph 1. fail to attend after being provided
175 reasonable opportunities.

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Section 5. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 39.5085, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

39.5085 Relative Caregiver Program.—

(2)(a) The Department of Children and Families shall establish, operate, and implement the Relative Caregiver Program by rule of the department. The Relative Caregiver Program shall be available for caregivers who meet the requirements of this section but are unable to meet the licensure requirements for the Guardianship Assistance Program under s. 39.6225. The Relative Caregiver Program shall, within the limits of available funding, provide financial assistance to:

1. Relatives who are within the fifth degree by blood or marriage to the parent or stepparent of a child and who are caring full-time for that dependent child in the role of substitute parent as a result of a court's determination of child abuse, neglect, or abandonment and subsequent placement with the relative under this chapter.

2. Relatives who are within the fifth degree by blood or marriage to the parent or stepparent of a child and who are caring full-time for that dependent child, and a dependent half-brother or half-sister of that dependent child, in the role of substitute parent as a result of a court's determination of child abuse, neglect, or abandonment and subsequent placement with the relative under this chapter.

3. Nonrelatives who are willing to assume custody and care

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of a dependent child in the role of substitute parent as a result of a court's determination of child abuse, neglect, or abandonment and subsequent placement with the nonrelative caregiver under this chapter. The court must find that a proposed placement under this subparagraph is in the best interest of the child.

4. A relative or nonrelative caregiver, but the relative or nonrelative caregiver may not receive a Relative Caregiver Program payment if the parent or stepparent of the child resides in the home. However, a relative or nonrelative may receive the Relative Caregiver Program payment for a minor parent who is in his or her care, as well as for the minor parent's child, if both children have been adjudicated dependent and meet all other eligibility requirements. If the caregiver is currently receiving the payment, the Relative Caregiver Program payment must be terminated no later than the first of the following month after the parent or stepparent moves into the home, allowing for 10-day notice of adverse action.

The placement may be court-ordered temporary legal custody to the relative or nonrelative under protective supervision of the department pursuant to s. 39.521(1)(c)3., or court-ordered placement in the home of a relative or nonrelative as a permanency option under s. 39.6221 or s. 39.6231 or under former s. 39.622 if the placement was made before July 1, 2006. The

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Relative Caregiver Program shall offer financial assistance to caregivers who would be unable to serve in that capacity without the caregiver payment because of financial burden, thus exposing the child to the trauma of placement in a shelter or in foster care.

Section 6. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of section 383.011, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

383.011 Administration of maternal and child health programs.—

(1) The Department of Health is designated as the state agency for:

(d) Administering and providing for prenatal and infant health care delivery services through county health departments or subcontractors for the provision of the following enhanced services for medically and socially high-risk clients, subject to the availability of moneys and the limitations established by the General Appropriations Act or chapter 216:

1. Case finding or outreach.

2. Assessment of health, social, environmental, and behavioral risk factors.

3. Case management utilizing a service delivery plan.

4. Home visiting to support the delivery of and participation in prenatal and infant primary health care services.

5. Childbirth and parenting education, including

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251 encouragement of breastfeeding.

252 6. Father engagement activities, such as providing
253 individualized support to fathers to increase participation in
254 services that strengthen family and child well-being and
255 evaluating father involvement with services provided by a home
256 visiting program.

257 Section 6. Present subsection (4) of section 409.145,
258 Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (5), and a new
259 subsection (4) is added to that section to read:

260 409.145 Care of children; "reasonable and prudent parent"
261 standard.—The child welfare system of the department shall
262 operate as a coordinated community-based system of care which
263 empowers all caregivers for children in foster care to provide
264 quality parenting, including approving or disapproving a child's
265 participation in activities based on the caregiver's assessment
266 using the "reasonable and prudent parent" standard.

267 (4) CHILD CARE SUBSIDY.—Subject to available funding, a
268 foster parent or relative or nonrelative caregiver, regardless
269 of participation in the Relative Caregiver Program under s.
270 39.5085 or licensure as a level I foster placement, who has a
271 child between the age of birth to school entry placed with the
272 foster parent or caregiver, shall receive a monthly payment of
273 up to \$200 to fund any cost of the early learning or child care
274 program attended by that child charged to the foster parent or
275 caregiver beyond any state subsidy from the early learning

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coalition under part IV of chapter 1002.

Section 7. Paragraph (b) of section 409.1451, F.S., and present paragraph (d) of that section is redesignated as paragraph (e), a new paragraph (d) is added to that subsection, and subparagraph 7. and 8. are added to new paragraph (e) to read:

409.1451 The Road-to-Independence Program.—

(2) POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION SERVICES AND SUPPORT.—

(b) The amount of the financial assistance shall be as follows:

1. For a young adult who does not remain in foster care and is attending a postsecondary school as provided in s. 1009.533, the amount is \$1,720 ~~\$1,256~~ monthly.

2. For a young adult who remains in foster care, is attending a postsecondary school, as provided in s. 1009.533, and continues to reside in a licensed foster home, the amount is the established room and board rate for foster parents. This takes the place of the payment provided for in s. 409.145(3).

3. For a young adult who remains in foster care, but temporarily resides away from a licensed foster home for purposes of attending a postsecondary school as provided in s. 1009.533, the amount is \$1,720 ~~\$1,256~~ monthly. This takes the place of the payment provided for in s. 409.145(3).

4. For a young adult who remains in foster care, is attending a postsecondary school as provided in s. 1009.533, and

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continues to reside in a licensed group home, the amount is negotiated between the community-based care lead agency and the licensed group home provider.

5. For a young adult who remains in foster care, but temporarily resides away from a licensed group home for purposes of attending a postsecondary school as provided in s. 1009.533, the amount is \$1,720 ~~\$1,256~~ monthly. This takes the place of a negotiated room and board rate.

6. A young adult is eligible to receive financial assistance during the months when he or she is enrolled in a postsecondary educational institution.

(c) Payment of financial assistance for a young adult who:

1. Has chosen not to remain in foster care and is attending a postsecondary school as provided in s. 1009.533, shall be made to the community-based care lead agency in order to secure housing and utilities, with the balance being paid directly to the young adult until such time the lead agency and the young adult determine that the young adult can successfully manage the full amount of the assistance.

2. Has remained in foster care under s. 39.6251 and who is attending postsecondary school as provided in s. 1009.533, shall be made directly to the foster parent or group home provider.

3. Community-based care lead agencies or other contracted providers are prohibited from charging a fee associated with administering the Road-to-Independence payments.

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(d) The department, or an agency under contract with the department, prior to the young adult's enrollment in postsecondary education, shall assess the young adult's financial literacy and executive functioning, self-regulation, and similar skills that are important for successful independent living and completion of postsecondary education. The department, or an agency under contract with the department shall provide information and referral to the young adult as needed to assist him or her in strengthening necessary skills.

(e)1. The department must advertise the availability of the stipend and must provide notification of the criteria and application procedures for the stipend to children and young adults leaving, or who were formerly in, foster care; caregivers; case managers; guidance and family services counselors; principals or other relevant school administrators; and guardians ad litem.

2. If the award recipient transfers from one eligible institution to another and continues to meet eligibility requirements, the award shall be transferred with the recipient.

3. The department, or an agency under contract with the department, shall evaluate each Road-to-Independence award for renewal eligibility on an annual basis. In order to be eligible for a renewal award for the subsequent year, the young adult must:

a. Be enrolled for or have completed the number of hours,

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or the equivalent, to be considered a full-time student under subparagraph (a)4., unless the young adult qualifies for an exception under subparagraph (a)4.

b. Maintain standards of academic progress as defined by the education institution, except that if the young adult's progress is insufficient to renew the award at any time during the eligibility period, the young adult may continue to be enrolled for additional terms while attempting to restore eligibility as long as progress towards the required level is maintained.

4. Funds may be terminated during the interim between an award and the evaluation for a renewal award if the department, or an agency under contract with the department, determines that the award recipient is no longer enrolled in an educational institution as described in subparagraph (a)4. or is no longer a resident of this state.

5. The department, or an agency under contract with the department, shall notify a recipient who is terminated and inform the recipient of his or her right to appeal.

6. An award recipient who does not qualify for a renewal award or who chooses not to renew the award may apply for reinstatement. An application for reinstatement must be made before the young adult reaches 23 years of age. In order to be eligible for reinstatement, the young adult must meet the eligibility criteria and the criteria for award renewal for the

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376 program.

377 7. The department, or an agency under contract with the
378 department, shall work the young adult to create a financial
379 plan guided by the young adult's financial goals in meeting his
380 or her needs while in postsecondary education. The department,
381 or an agency under contract with the department, shall review,
382 and if necessary, update the financial plan with the young adult
383 every six months until funding under this subsection is no
384 longer provided.

385 8. The department or an agency under contract with the
386 department must assist the young adult with developing a
387 transition plan that includes, at a minimum, how the young adult
388 will meet his or her financial needs and obligations when
389 funding under this subsection is no longer provided. The
390 transition plan must be completed during the year before the
391 young adult graduates from postsecondary education or the year
392 before the young adult turns 23, whichever occurs first.

393 Section 8. Section 409.1452, Florida Statutes, is amended
394 to read:

395 ~~409.1452 Collaboration with Board of Governors, Florida~~
396 ~~College System, and Department of Education to assist~~ Liaisons
397 and coaches for children and young adults who have been or are
398 in foster care or are experiencing homelessness; documentation
399 regarding eligibility for tuition and fee exemption. ~~Effective~~
400 ~~July 1, 2013, the Department of Children and Families shall work~~

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401 ~~in collaboration with~~

402 (1) (a) The Board of Governors, the Florida College System,
403 ~~and the Department of Education to help address the need for a~~
404 Each school district program, institution, or university at
405 which a student is exempt from payment of tuition and fees under
406 s. 1009.25 must have, at a minimum, a knowledgeable, accessible,
407 and responsive staff member who can provide effective assistance
408 to such students who are exempt from payment of tuition and fees
409 in resolving any problems related to such exemption. The name
410 and contact information for such individual must be provided to
411 each student who is exempt from payment of tuition and fees and
412 who is attending that program, institution, or university;
413 posted on the website of the program, institution, or
414 university; and provided to the Department of Children and
415 Families and each community-based care lead agency. The liaisons
416 ~~shall comprehensive support structure in the academic arena to~~
417 ~~assist children and young adults who have been or continue to~~
418 ~~remain in the foster care system in making the transition from a~~
419 ~~structured care system into an independent living setting. The~~
420 ~~State University System of Florida and the Florida College~~
421 ~~System shall provide postsecondary educational campus coaching~~
422 ~~positions that will be integrated into Florida College System~~
423 ~~institutions' and university institutions' general support~~
424 ~~services structure to provide~~ such students ~~current and former~~
425 ~~foster care children and young adults with dedicated, on-campus~~

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426 support- ~~and The Department of Children and Families has the~~
427 ~~sole discretion to determine which state college or university~~
428 ~~will offer a campus coaching position, based on departmental~~
429 ~~demographic data indicating greatest need. These campus coaching~~
430 ~~positions~~ must ~~shall~~ be employees of the ~~selected educational~~
431 ~~program, institution, or university institutions, focused on~~
432 ~~supporting children and young adults who have been or continue~~
433 ~~to remain in the foster care system.~~

434 (b) The programs, institutions, and universities shall
435 maintain the original documentation submitted regarding a
436 student's eligibility for the tuition and fee exemption under s.
437 1009.25 and may not make additional requests for such
438 documentation.

439 (2) Such programs, institutions, and universities may also
440 provide campus coaching services and other support to such
441 students to promote their successful completion of postsecondary
442 education and transition to independent living.

443 (3) The Chancellors of the Florida College System and the
444 Board of Governors shall report annually to the Department of
445 Children and Families specific data, subject to privacy laws,
446 about the students ~~children and young adults~~ served by the
447 campus liaisons ~~coaches~~, including academic progress, retention
448 rates for students enrolled in the program, financial aid
449 requested and received, and information required by the National
450 Youth in Transition Database.

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451 Section 9. Section 409.1464, Florida Statutes, is created
452 to read:

453 409.1464 Responsible Fatherhood Media Campaign.—

454 Subject to available resources, the department shall
455 contract for the development and implementation of a
456 communications initiative regarding responsible fatherhood.
457 This initiative shall have as its goal to provide an opportunity
458 for every father in the state to be able to obtain information
459 and inspiration that will motivate and enable him to enhance his
460 abilities as a father, recognizing that some fathers have
461 greater challenges and as such would benefit from greater
462 support in that role. The campaign shall involve, at a minimum,
463 a website and related electronic resources that will allow
464 fathers to obtain information about effective parenting,
465 identify any areas in which support would enable them to enhance
466 their ability to be an effective father, and be connected to
467 that support, including but not limited to that provided by
468 organizations receiving grants under s. 409.1465. Subject to
469 available resources, the campaign shall include, but need not be
470 limited to, print, television, and digital and social media
471 elements, and public events, and may include appearances by and
472 involvement from public figures and influencers. The initiative
473 shall, at a minimum, use appropriate materials from the
474 fatherhood media campaign available through the National
475 Clearinghouse on Responsible Fatherhood. The contractor shall

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collaborate with other agencies and organizations to develop and
implement the initiative.

Section 10. Section 409.1465, Florida Statutes, is created
to read:

409.1465 Fatherhood Initiatives.—

(1) The Legislature recognizes that families are stronger
when both parents act responsibly in caring for their children.
It is the intent of the Legislature to recognize and support the
important and unique role that fathers play in ensuring the
physical, emotional, and economic well-being of their children
and families.

(2) Subject to available funds, the department shall award
grants to not-for-profit community-based organizations to
address the needs of fathers. The department shall award two
types of grants:

(a) Grants to comprehensively address the needs of
fathers, such as by assisting them in finding employment,
managing child support obligations, transitioning from
incarceration, accessing health care, understanding child
development, and enhancing parenting skills. Services provided
shall be tailored to the needs of fathers being served. These
grants shall require case management services to be provided to
the fathers being served.

(b) Grants to provide evidence-based parenting education
specifically for fathers. These grants shall not include case

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501 management.

502 (3) The department shall prioritize applicants for grant
503 awards based on:

504 (a) Need in the geographic area and population proposed to
505 be served as indicated by, at a minimum, rates of unemployment,
506 incarceration, housing instability, single parent families,
507 receipt of public benefits, and graduation, and levels of
508 academic achievement.

509 (b) Applicants having a primary mission of, or a history
510 of a significant focus on and effective work towards, addressing
511 the needs of men in their role as fathers.

512 (c) Applicant current and historical involvement in the
513 community being served.

514 (d) Applicant commitment and capability to employ
515 competent staff who shall be able to effectively engage with the
516 fathers being served, including but not limited to individuals
517 sharing a similar background as the fathers being served.

518 (e) The number of individuals the applicant plans to serve
519 through the grant and the projected costs for the program.

520 (f) Applicants' organizational capacity to effectively
521 meet the requirements of the grant and to deliver the programs
522 proposed by the applicant. The department may offer technical
523 assistance to applicants and grant awardees which have lower
524 organizational capacity but such organizations, or the leaders
525 of such organizations, have significant past engagement serving

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526 fathers.

527 (4) Grants shall be for up to three years, with subsequent
528 year funding contingent on compliance with grant requirements
529 and adequate performance. Grant recipients must submit reports
530 in a format and at intervals prescribed by the department.

531 Section 11. Section 409.1467, Florida Statutes, is created
532 to read:

533 409.1467 Mentorship for at-risk male students.—

534 (1) Subject to available funds, the department shall
535 contract with Volunteer Florida to provide grants to not-for-
536 profit organizations to offer mentorship programs. These grants
537 shall:

538 (a) Assist at-risk male students in middle and high school
539 in developing social, emotional, and cognitive skills to prepare
540 them for success.

541 (b) Provide an opportunity for small not-for-profit
542 organizations to receive training and technical assistance that
543 will strengthen their capacity to provide high-quality,
544 effective services and obtain additional non-state funding in
545 the future.

546 (2) To be eligible for a grant award, an organization must
547 have organization management and a board of directors reflective
548 of the community served by the organization.

549 (3) Grant awardees must:

550 (a) Recruit and train mentors for eligible male students.

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551 (b) Provide mentorship, social, academic support, life
552 skill development, and other opportunities for such male
553 students.

554 (c) Use trauma-informed practices and interventions to
555 address adverse childhood experiences.

556 (d) Be inclusive of eligible male students with
557 disabilities.

558 (4) Prioritization of applicants for a grant award shall,
559 at a minimum, be based on:

560 (a) The rates of unemployment, incarceration, housing
561 instability, graduation, single parenthood, and receipt of
562 public benefits and levels of academic achievement in the
563 geographic area in which mentorship services would be provided.

564 (b) The number of students the applicant plans to serve
565 through the grant and the projected costs for the new or
566 expanded mentorship program.

567 (c) The not-for-profit organization's current revenues and
568 governance, demonstrated effectiveness, experience in serving
569 at-risk male students or providing mentorship programs, and
570 commitment to organizational development through the
571 certification required under subsection (6) such that the
572 purpose under paragraph (1)(b) would be achieved.

573 (5) Each grant award shall total between \$25,000 and
574 \$250,000 per year, and grants may be awarded to an organization
575 for up to three years contingent on continued eligibility,

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576 compliance with grant requirements, and adequate performance.
577 Volunteer Florida shall create categories of grants based on the
578 annual revenues of the not-for-profit organizations applying to
579 maximize opportunities for small not-for-profit organizations to
580 receive grants.

581 (6) Grantees must submit reports in a format and at
582 intervals prescribed by Volunteer Florida. At a minimum, grant
583 recipients must report on the number of male students served and
584 their ages, the number of mentors providing mentorship services,
585 and outcomes for students served, including, but not limited to,
586 improved academic success, decreased involvement in the juvenile
587 justice system, and enhanced readiness for and involvement in
588 postsecondary education, as appropriate.

589 (7) Within six months of a grant award, grantees must
590 complete training in non-profit management, outcomes
591 measurement, and positive youth development required by
592 Volunteer Florida. Such training shall be designed to achieve
593 the goal of paragraph (1) (b). Volunteer Florida shall determine
594 the specific training needed by grantees and either directly
595 provide such training or contract for training provision. Grant
596 funding may be used for such training.

597 (8) Volunteer Florida shall provide technical assistance
598 to grantees.

599 Section 12. Present subsections (9) through (13) are
600 renumbered as subsections (10) through (14), present subsection

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(7) is amended, and a new subsection (8) is added to Section 409.147, Florida Statutes, to read:

409.147 Children's initiatives.—

(7) CHILDREN'S INITIATIVE CORPORATION.—

(a) After the governing body adopts the resolution described in subsection (4), establishes the planning team as provided in subsection (5), and develops and adopts the strategic community plan as provided in subsection (6), the county or municipality shall create a corporation not for profit which shall be registered, incorporated, organized, and operated in compliance with chapter 617. The purpose of the corporation is to facilitate fundraising, to secure broad community ownership of the children's initiative, and, if the area selected by the governing body is designated as a children's initiative, to:

1.~~(a)~~ Begin to transfer responsibility for planning from the planning team to the corporation.

2.~~(b)~~ Begin the implementation and governance of the children's initiative community plan.

3. Update the strategic community plan every five years to reflect, at a minimum, the current status of the area served by the children's initiative, the goals, objectives, and strategies for each focus area, and the tasks required to implement the strategies for the upcoming year.

(b) Subject to available resources, the Ounce shall

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626 provide technical assistance to the corporation to facilitate
627 achievement of the plans created under (6).

628 (8) REQUIREMENTS FOR RECEIVING STATE FUNDING.-Unless
629 otherwise specified in the general appropriations act:

630 (a) State funding for children's initiatives must be
631 awarded through a performance-based contract that links payments
632 to achievement of outcomes directly related to the goals,
633 objectives, strategies, and tasks outlined in the strategic
634 community plan.

635 (b) Children's initiatives being established in counties
636 which do not currently have an initiative shall have priority
637 for funding available for new initiatives.

638 Section 13. Subsection (4) is added to section 409.2557,
639 Florida Statutes, to read:

640 409.2557 State agency for administering child support
641 enforcement program.—

642 (4) The department shall establish on its website a
643 dedicated webpage that provides information to obligors who have
644 difficulty paying child support due to economic hardship and
645 provide a link to the webpage on the main child support webpage.
646 The webpage shall be in plain language, and include, at a
647 minimum, information on how an obligor can modify a child
648 support order, information on how to access services from
649 CareerSource Florida and the organizations awarded grants under
650 s. 409.25996, and hyperlinks to the CareerSource Florida

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website.

Section 14. Paragraph (b) of subsection (9) of section 409.2564, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

409.2564 Actions for support.—

(9)(a) For the purpose of securing delinquent support, the department may increase the amount of the monthly support obligation to include amounts for delinquencies, subject to such conditions or limitations as set forth in paragraph (b).

(b) In support obligations not subject to income deduction, the department shall notify the obligor in writing of his or her delinquency and of the department's intent to require an additional 20 percent of the monthly obligation amount to allow for collection of the delinquency unless, within 20 days, the obligor—

~~1.—~~ pays the delinquency in full; or

~~2.—~~ files a petition with the circuit court to contest the delinquency action.

(c) In any notices provided to obligors regarding delinquent support, the written notification must include information on how the obligor can access the webpage required by s. 409.2557 and information on how to access services through CareerSource Florida and the organizations awarded grants under s. 409.25996.

Section 15. Section 409.25996, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

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676 409.25996 Organizations that Assist Non-Custodial Parents.
677 – The Department of Economic Opportunity shall award grants to
678 organizations that assist non-custodial parents, who are
679 unemployed or underemployed and have difficulty meeting child
680 support obligations, become self-sufficient and establish a
681 successful pattern of meeting child support payments.

682 Section 16. Paragraph (n) is added to subsection (1) of
683 section 409.988, Florida Statutes, is to read:

684 409.988 Community-based care lead agency duties; general
685 provisions.–

686 (1) DUTIES.–A lead agency:

687 (n) Shall ensure that it is addressing the unique needs of
688 fathers of children served by the lead agency.

689 1. The lead agency shall:

690 a. Conduct an initial assessment of its engagement with
691 such fathers and provision of and referral to father-oriented
692 services.

693 b. Create an action plan to address any gaps identified
694 through the assessment and implement the action plan.

695 c. Employ a father engagement specialist whose role shall
696 include, at a minimum, building relationships with fathers,
697 helping identify their needs, assisting them in accessing
698 services, and communicating with the lead agency about the
699 challenges faced by fathers and how to appropriately meet their
700 unique needs. The lead agency shall prioritize for selection as

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father engagement specialists individuals with lived experience similar to fathers served by the lead agency.

2. The department shall annually review how the lead agency is meeting the needs of fathers, including, at a minimum, how the lead agency is helping fathers establish positive, stable relationships with children and assisting fathers in receiving needed services. The lead agency shall provide any relevant information on how it is meeting the needs of fathers to the department to be included in the report required under s. 409.986.

Section 17. Subsection (3) of section 409.996, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

409.996 Duties of the Department of Children and Families.—The department shall contract for the delivery, administration, or management of care for children in the child protection and child welfare system. In doing so, the department retains responsibility for the quality of contracted services and programs and shall ensure that, at a minimum, services are delivered in accordance with applicable federal and state statutes and regulations and the performance standards and metrics specified in the strategic plan created under s. 20.19(1).

(3) The department shall annually conduct a comprehensive, multiyear review of the revenues, expenditures, and financial position of all community-based care lead agencies which must

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cover the most recent 2 consecutive fiscal years. The review must include a comprehensive system-of-care analysis. All community-based care lead agencies must develop and maintain a plan to achieve financial viability. The department's review and the agency's plan shall be submitted to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by December 1 ~~November 1~~ of each year.

Section 18. Paragraph (g) of subsection (2) of section 409.997, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

409.997 Child welfare results-oriented accountability program.—

(2) The purpose of the results-oriented accountability program is to monitor and measure the use of resources, the quality and amount of services provided, and child and family outcomes. The program includes data analysis, research review, and evaluation. The program shall produce an assessment of individual entities' performance, as well as the performance of groups of entities working together on a local, judicial circuit, regional, and statewide basis to provide an integrated system of care. Data analyzed and communicated through the accountability program shall inform the department's development and maintenance of an inclusive, interactive, and evidence-supported program of quality improvement which promotes individual skill building as well as organizational learning. The department may use data generated by the program regarding

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performance drivers, process improvements, short-term and long-term outcomes, and quality improvement efforts to determine contract compliance and as the basis for payment of performance incentives if funds for such payments are made available through the General Appropriations Act. The information compiled and utilized in the accountability program must incorporate, at a minimum:

(g) An annual performance report that is provided to interested parties including the dependency judge or judges in the community-based care service area. The report shall be submitted to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by November 15 ~~October 1~~ of each year.

Section 19. Section 683.334, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

683.334 Responsible Fatherhood Month.—

(1) The month of June of each year is designated as "Responsible Fatherhood Month" to recognize the importance of fathers in children's lives, how fathers contribute to children's safety and stability, and the direct link between positive father involvement and child well-being.

(2) The Department of Children and Families, the Department of Health, local governments, and other agencies are encouraged to sponsor events to promote awareness of responsible fatherhood engagement and the contributions fathers make in the

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776 lives of children.

777 Section 20. Paragraphs (c) and (d) of subsection (1) of
778 section 1009.25, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

779 1009.25 Fee exemptions.—

780 (1) The following students are exempt from the payment of
781 tuition and fees, including lab fees, at a school district that
782 provides workforce education programs, Florida College System
783 institution, or state university:

784 (c) A student who was the subject of a dependency
785 proceeding and:

786 1. Is, or was at the time he or she reached 18 years of
787 age, in out-of-home care. ~~the custody of the Department of~~
788 ~~Children and Families or who,~~

789 2. Is, or was at the time he or she reached 18 years of
790 age, in the custody of a relative or nonrelative pursuant to s.
791 39.5085 or s. 39.6225.

792 3. After spending at least 6 months in the custody of the
793 department after reaching 16 years of age, was placed in a
794 guardianship by the court.

795 4. After reaching 14 years of age and thereafter spending
796 at least 18 months in out-of-home care, was reunited with his or
797 her parent or parents who were the subject of the dependency
798 proceeding before he or she reaches 18 years of age, including a
799 student who is reunited under s. 39.8155. For a student to be
800 eligible under this subparagraph, the student must be Pell

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Grant-eligible, and the entity imposing the tuition and fees must verify such eligibility.

5. Was adopted from the department after May 5, 1997.

6. Was placed in a permanent guardianship, regardless of whether the caregiver participates or participated in the Relative Caregiver Program under s. 39.5085, and remains in such guardianship until the student either reaches 18 years of age or, if before reaching 18 years of age, he or she enrolls in an eligible institution.

Such exemption includes fees associated with enrollment in applied academics for adult education instruction. The exemption remains valid until the student reaches 28 years of age.

~~(d) A student who is, or was at the time he or she reached 18 years of age, in the custody of a relative or nonrelative under s. 39.5085 or s. 39.6225 or who was adopted from the Department of Children and Families after May 5, 1997. Such exemption includes fees associated with enrollment in applied academics for adult education instruction. The exemption remains valid until the student reaches 28 years of age.~~

Section 21. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.